



ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY May 7, 2014

The Environmental Board convened in a public hearing meeting on Wednesday, May 7, 2014, at City Hall Council Chambers. 301 W. Second Street, Austin, Texas 78701

Board Members in Attendance:

Robert Deegan, Mary Gay Maxwell, Marisa Perales, James Schissler, Brian Smith, and Jennifer Walker

Board Members Absent:

Mary Ann Neely

Staff in Attendance:

Chuck Lesniak
David Johns
Marilla Shepherd
Thais Perkins
Scott Hiers
George Zapalac
Keith Mars
Sue Barnett

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mary Gay Maxwell called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS: GENERAL

Speakers should sign up to speak prior to the meeting being called to order; you will receive a three-minute allotment to discuss topics not posted on the agenda.

There were no citizens signed up to speak.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND ACTION ITEMS

- a. Approve the minutes of the Environmental Board regular meeting of April 16, 2014.
The minutes from the meeting of 5/7/2014 were approved on Board Member James Schissler's motion, Board Member Brian Smith second on a 6-0-0-1 vote. Board member Mary Ann Neely was absent.
- b. Approve the minutes of the Environmental Board Joint Water Quality Regulations and Development Committee of April 23, 2014.
The minutes from the meeting of 4/23/2014 were approved on Board Member James Schissler's motion, Board Member Marisa Perales second on a 5-0-1-1 vote. Board member Mary Ann Neely was absent on 5/7/14, and Jennifer Walker abstained (absent on 4/23/14).
- c. Commendation letter to Victoria Li, Director, Watershed Protection Department
Recommendation adopting commendation letter to Victoria Li, Director, Watershed Protection Department was approved on Board Member Dr. Mary Gay Maxwell's

motion, Board Member James Schissler's second on a 6-0-0-1 vote. Board member Mary Ann Neely was absent.

- d. Environmental Officer's report on hot topics and past Board actions – Chuck Lesniak, Watershed Protection Department – **No report this week.**

4. 10 MINUTES OF CONTINUING EDUCATION

- a. Green Infrastructure Program - Mike Personett, Watershed Protection Department
Consensus to postpone this item to the 5/21/2014 Environmental Board meeting was approved with no opposition.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS & POSSIBLE ACTION

- a. **Name:** The Terrace at Oak Hill PUD Amendment C814-2007-0009.01

Applicant: Doucet & Associates (Ted McConaghy)

Location: 8500 State Highway 71 West

Staff Reviewers: Lee Heckman, AICP, Planner Senior, Planning and Development Review Department, and Mike McDougal, Environmental Review Specialist Senior

Watershed: Williamson Creek (Barton Springs Zone)

Request: PUD amendment that provides for a change in land use and includes environmental code modifications as follows:

1. Realign the northeast CWQZ and WQTZ specified in the approved Ordinance 20070726-104
2. Allow for cut / fill up to 8 feet, LDC 25-8-341 / 342 of the Watershed Protection Ordinance
3. Allow for construction on slopes up to 35%, LDC 25-8-302 of the Watershed Protection Ordinance
4. Realign the downstream buffer specified in the approved Ordinance 20070726-104
5. Adjust the 50 foot Critical Environmental Feature setback, LDC 25-8-282 of the Watershed Protection Ordinance.

Staff Recommendation: Recommended for approval with conditions.

Recommended with conditions.

Recommendation approved on Board Member Robert Deegan's motion and Board member James Schissler's second vote 6-0-0-1. Board member Mary Ann Neely was absent.

6. STAFF BRIEFINGS AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- a. Water Treatment Plant 4 Transmission Main quarterly report on project status
Robyn Smith, Public Works Department
**The presentation was made by Robyn Smith, Public Works Department.
No action taken.**
- b. Water Treatment Plant 4 Environmental Commissioning quarterly report
Thais Perkins, and David Johns, P. G., Watershed Protection Department.
**The presentation was made by Thais Perkins and David Johns, P. G.
Watershed Protection Department. No action taken.**
- c. 2013 Heritage Tree Report – Keith Mars, Planning and Development Review Department
The presentation was made by Keith Mars, Planning and Development Review Department. No action taken.
- d. Update on Trails and Creek Issues – Matt Hollon, Watershed Protection Department
This item was withdrawn at the request of staff.
- e. Code Next Report – George Zapalac, Planning and Development Review Department
The presentation was made by George Zapalac, Planning and Development Review Department. No action taken.

7.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Update on the Joint Environmental/Parks Board Subcommittee – Mary Ann Neely, Jennifer Walker, and James Schissler, P.E. **No report this week.**
- b. Urban Growth Policy Committee – Mary Gay Maxwell, James Schissler, P. E., and Marisa Perales. **No report this week.**
- c. Water Treatment Plant #4 Committee – Mary Gay Maxwell and Mary Ann Neely - **No report this week.**
- d. Development Committee – Mary Gay Maxwell, Marisa Perales, Robert Deegan, and James Schissler, P.E. - **Report on Urban Trails Master Plan from committee meeting 4/23/14.**
- e. Water Quality Regulations Committee – Mary Ann Neely, Chair, Brian Smith, and Jennifer Walker. **No report this week.**
- f. Watershed Protection Budget Committee – Mary Gay Maxwell and Mary Ann Neely
Set date to convene the WPD Budget Committee.
This item was conducted as posted.
Marisa Perales is a member of the Budget Committee.
- g. Other reports from Board members. **Report from the Boards and Commission Task Force, Mary Gay Maxwell. This item was conducted as posted.**

8.

NEW BUSINESS - Future agenda items

Kevin Thuesen presentation on the Water Quality Protection Lands.

9.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Mary Gay Maxwell adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.



ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD COMMENDATION

Date: May 7, 2014

Subject: Watershed Protection Department FY 2013 Annual Report - Victoria Li,
P. E., Director, Watershed Protection Department

Commendation

The Environmental Board commends Victoria Li, Director, and the staff of the Watershed Protection Department of the City of Austin for its outstanding work during FY 2013, toward fulfilling its mission to:

Protect lives, property and the environment from the impact of flooding, erosion and water pollution.

- **In particular, the Department staff worked diligently during and following the flood of record on Onion Creek the night of Halloween, October 31, 2013, to assist in protecting citizens in the affected area. During the flood, WPD provided information to emergency managers and first responders, and continually updated the ATXfloods.com site with road conditions, rescues and evacuation information. WPD worked at the Flood Assistance Center for 8 weeks, initiated immediate buyouts of 116 homes, removed 156 tons of debris, and addressed erosion along Fallwell Lane.**
- **Many projects continue in the areas of erosion control along creeks, improving water quality in creeks and in Lake Austin, and value engineering to maximize utilization of funds for CIP projects. A lengthy public process in updating the Watershed Protection Ordinance was completed in which more than 300 miles of eastern creeks now have headwaters protection; new Erosion Hazard Zones have been established and increased protection for floodplains and riparian zones.**
- **The Environmental Commissioning team at the Water Treatment Plant #4 and Jollyville Transmission Main project has continued to ensure that environmental goals are met through the construction and startup of the plant.**

- **Watershed Protection** biologists worked diligently on the **renewal of the Fish and Wildlife permit for 20 years at Barton Springs to protect the Barton Springs Salamander. The Austin Blind Salamander was added as an endangered species in the process.** The Department completed repairs to the bypass culvert at Barton Springs.
- **The Environmental Resource Management** team completed **restoration projects on Shoal Creek from 15th to 28th Streets, stabilized the bank of the Shoal Creek Peninsula at Lady Bird Lake and raised the trail in the area to reduce flooding.** Invasive plant species are assessed, removed, and managed utilizing partnerships with volunteers at many locations. The open space acquisition program is assisted by ERM staff because of the effectiveness of open space in protecting water quality and quantity in the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer.
- **Watershed Engineering** has worked on the **Waller Creek Tunnel** that will be completed by the end of 2014. As a result, improved storm drains will protect three neighborhoods, and flood safety for the downtown area will be greatly improved. The low water crossing at Nuckols Crossing was improved to increase flood safety. **The “FloodPro” program to make floodplain maps accessible by the public was launched. Floodplain maps have been updated for six major watersheds to assist the public in flood awareness.**
- **Field Operations** have removed debris from 5 miles of creeks and channels, and **143.5 tons of litter and debris were removed from Lady Bird Lake.** In addition, 3,549 linear feet of storm drainpipe have been installed. TV inspections of storm drains have resulted in 111 repair orders to date.
- Finally, **Outreach by the Watershed Protection Department** has conducted an Adult Education program in which **120,000 pieces of Grow Green educational materials have been distributed through participation in fairs and presentations.** The Youth Education Program continues to provide Earth Camp and Earth School to a total of **6,034 5th graders in the last year.** Middle school participation is increasing, and clean creek campus projects, and a Flood Safety Poster contest are conducted throughout the school year. The Media and Public Outreach program is increasing and will continue to grow.

The Environmental Board wishes to thank the entire staff of the Watershed Protection Department for its continued accomplishments and excellent work on behalf of the City of Austin.

ADOPTED BY:


Dr. Mary Gay Maxwell, Environmental Board Chair

ATTEST BY:



